July 27 – August 2, 2023 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 30 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 138, No. 30

Sumpter Township trustees agreed to use $250,000 of the expected American Rescue Plan Act funding to improve Martinsville Cemetery.

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THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 30

Canton Township Police Ofc. Erik Kaledas, a 25-year veteran of the force has retired from the department.

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THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
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An opportunity to see why Inkster is at the center of American history and at the heart of Black history is planned during the Inktown Tour set for Aug. 6.

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THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
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Northville Township Records Clerk Melissa Sullivan has been selected to serve on the board of trustees for the Law Enforcement Records Management Agency.

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THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
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Students returning to or starting classes in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district this fall will have some extra help available.

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THE ROMULUS ROMAN
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The Fifth Annual Community Bike Ride, organized by the Police and Community Together group, is set for Saturday throughout Romulus.

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THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 30

Lead in the drinking water of about 400 homes in the City of Wayne prompted a warning from the Department of Public Works and state last week.

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 76, No. 30

The accomplishments of 19 young residents were celebrated by the Westland Police Department last week as they marked their official graduation from the Westland Police Youth Academy.

See page 6.

Fresh from the farm…

Local farmers markets offering healthy summer produce and more

Nearly everyone in this area has access to a local farmers market as the health benefits to residents and to the bottom line of local growers has become a well-accepted feature in communities.

Dieticians praise the effects of fresh produce on health and Johns Hopkins dietician Melinda Cater favors the nutritional value fresh produce provides.

"Produce from local farmers has spent more time on the vine, on the tree or in the ground, so you get better taste and more nutrients," she said. "When it comes to fresh fruit and vegetables, the shorter the time and distance from farm to sale, the higher the levels of vitamins and minerals."

For the best taste and nutrition, experts agree that shoppers can't go wrong with fruits and vegetables in season. Some vendors and often the markets have email threads or social media posts where shoppers can find out which foods are most likely at their peak each week and likely to be available. Usually, the vendors and sellers are happy to tell customers what is best each week and what they may have the next week.

Another feature of most farmers markets is they don't just have fruits and vegetables. They often have bread, eggs, pastries, fish, meat, olive oils and sometimes homemade pies and even soups for sale. Shoppers should use their common sense while choosing items, experts advise. Obviously, avoid any produce with wet or slimy leaves and pass up any produce that is changing color, such as green vegetables turning yellow. Watch for mold and do not take anything that smells bitter or is abnormally soft home from the shopping adventure.

Expert shoppers suggest taking an insulated bag or even a cooler in the trunk of a vehicle when buying perishables such as meat, poultry, fish or eggs at the markets. Shoppers are also advised to watch for safe handling of prepared foods. There are some foods that are risky at the market and could be health risks, experts said, especially for pregnant women, children, the elderly or those with compromised immune systems.

The Northville Farmers Market at the corner of Sheldon and West Seven Mile is open on Thursdays until October and features a variety of fresh produce.

BELLEVILLE:

In Belleville, the Farmers Market is open every Monday, June through October, according to the city website. The market takes place in the Fourth Street Place and the Fourth Street Square.

CANTON:

The Canton Farmers Market takes place rain or shine from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. every Sunday at Preservation Park, located at 500 N. Ridge Road. For more information about the Canton Farmers Market visit www.canton-mi.org/496, access Facebook @CantonFarmersMarket or on Instagram@CantonFarmers MarketMI, or email cantonfarmersmarket@cantonmi.gov.

INKSTER:

The Inkster Task Force (ITF) Farmers Market was established in 2020 as a way to bring fresh, local produce into the community. It started as a vision of the Inkster Task Force, and with support from National Kidney Foundation of Michigan REACH for the S.T.A.R.S program became much more than a place to purchase fruits and vegetables for Inkster residents. The market is open from 4 until 7 p.m. Wednesdays until Oct. 3. The market takes place at 27020 Michigan Ave.

NORTHVILLE:

The popular Northville Farmers Market is open from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Thursdays until October. The market features Michigan grown and Michigan made products in 75 stalls with produce, plants and other items. The Northville market takes place at 301 South Center St. at the corner of Sheldon Road and West Seven Mile Road across from the Northville Downs racetrack. More information is available at (248) 349-7640 or email mattzook@northville.org.

PLYMOUTH:

Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Plymouth Farmers Market takes place behind Kellogg Park in The Gathering and along Penniman Avenue Freshly grown produce, flowers, baked goods, and crafts are available.

ROMULUS:

The Romulus Farmers Market takes place at 11147 Hunt St. from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturdays until October. This farmers market accepts credit cards; WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP); Senior Farmers Markets Nutrition Program (SFMNP) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Usually available are baked goods, arts and crafts, flowers, eggs, herbs, vegetables, jams and plants.

WAYNE:

Every Wednesday from 3 until 7 p.m., the local Farmers Market takes place behind Wayne City Hall 3355 S. Wayne Road in downtown Wayne. The market is usually open through October and includes vendors of fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers and baked goods, one of a kind artisan works along with fresh squeezed lemonade and live musical performances.

The Canton Farmers Market, top, is open on Sunday while the Westland market takes place Thursday.

WESTLAND:

The Westland Farmers and Artisans Market is open every Thursday from 3 until 7 p.m. at the Marketplace, 1901 North Carlson, south of Ford Road, south of the H2O zone. The market will be closed Aug. 3 but will reopen on Thursdays through October.

WAYNE COUNTY FARMERS STAND

Also in Westland, Wayne County Parks Department has partnered with Eastern Market to offer a bi-weekly Farmers Stand at Hines Park from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. on select Saturdays. The stand will be located outside the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center near the start point for Saturday in the Park.

The bi-weekly program will allow residents to buy fresh, affordable, and locally produced food Aug.5, Aug. 19 Sept. 2, Sept. 16 and Sept. 30, officials said.

The Farmers Stand is located at the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center, 33175 Ann Arbor Trail in Westland.

Hines Drive is closed on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. for the Saturday in the Park program so shoppers are advised to go around the barricades at Ann Arbor Trail to reach the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center parking lot. For more information, call (734) 261-1990.

Plymouth Farmers Market is on Saturday mornings.

Inkster - Wayne

Testing of city water samples shows lead content

Lead in the drinking water of about 400 homes in the City of Wayne prompted a warning from the Department of Public Works last week.

According to a posted warning on the city and police media pages, recent testing of tap water in city homes found the water in more than 10 percent of the 60 homes reached the Action Level as specified by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. The Action Level is a measure of corrosion control effectiveness. The goal for lead in drinking water particles per billion (ppb) is 15. The Wayne results showed 16 ppb, according to the official posting.

Exposure to lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters the body from drinking water or other sources. Homes with lead service lines have an increased risk of having high lead levels in drinking water. According to Wayne officials, about 400 of the 5,950 water customers in the city still have lead service lines.

To reduce the risk, officials recommend residents who do not have a lead service line, run the cold water for 30 seconds to 2 minutes or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature. In those homes with lead service lines, residents should run the cold water for at least 5 minutes to flush water from the plumbing and service lines.

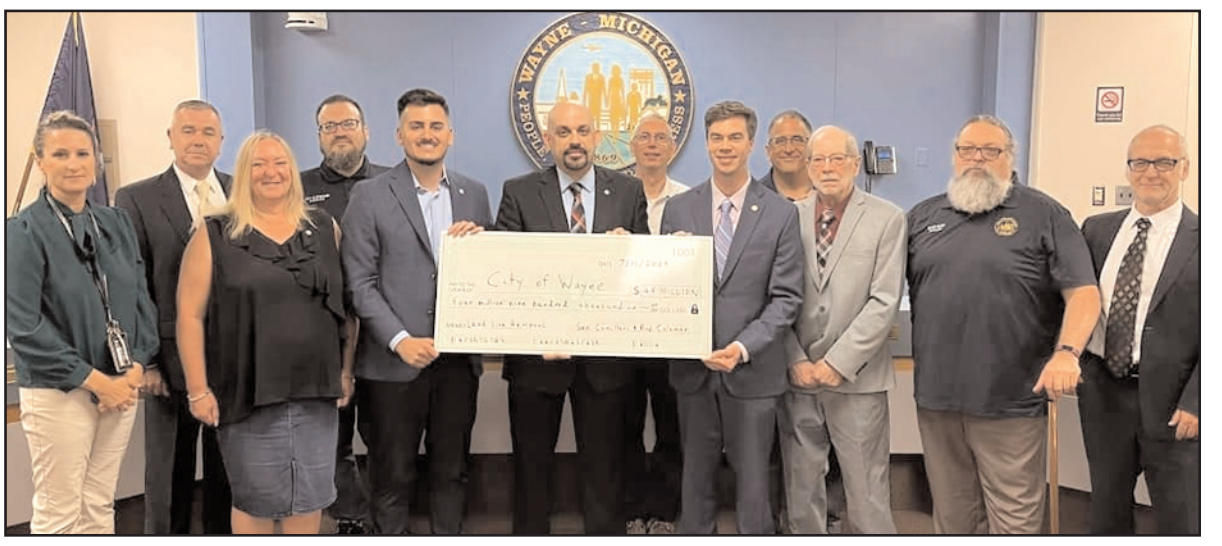
City officials suggested all residents use a filter to reduce lead in the drinking water, especially households with a child or where a child frequently visits. Filters should be tested and certified to NSJ/ANSI Standard 53 for lead reduction and Standard 42 for particulate reduction. Free certified lead reducing filters and replacement cartridges are available at the Wayne DPW to eligible households where there is a child under 18 or a pregnant person or a member of the household is enrolled in Medicaid or WIC or is unable to afford a filter.

Officials warned Wayne residents not to use hot water for drinking, preparing food, cooking or preparing baby formula. Residents should not boil the water as boiling will not reduce the amount of lead in the water. Residents were further advised to clean faucet aerators to remove any trapped debris.

Officials said testing of the city water would continue and samples would be collected from 60 sites every six months to determine the level of lead in the water.

Residents of the city can schedule blood testing for lead levels for children at their health care provider or call 866-610-3885 from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to make an appointment with the Wayne County Department of Health Human and Veterans Services.

The free water filters are available to eligible households between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday at the DPW, 35200 Forest Ave. in Wayne.



Just prior to the official warning regarding excess lead in some Wayne homes where lead service lines remain, Michigan State Sen. Darrin Camilleri and State Rep. Kevin Coleman visited the Wayne City Council to present a check for $4,900,000 to Mayor John Rhaesa. The money was designated in the new omnibus bill to fund the replacement of lead water lines in the city. The funding, officials said, will be available by or on Oct. 1 which will expedite the replacement of the water lines.

History lessons

An opportunity to see why the City of Inkster is at the center of American history and at the heart and hub of Black history is planned during the Inktown Tour, set for 1 p.m. Aug. 6. The tour includes the story of the city from 200 years ago, until today. There will be a midday meal at Clayton's following the tour. In addition, there will be a supplemental tour at 4:30 p.m. visiting sites in Inkster that were vital to the transformation of Malcolm Little to Malcolm X. To register for the free tour, contact Robert Turley through Facebook Messenger for details.

New council member, mayor pro-tem chosen

During a special meeting of the Wayne City Council members on July 17, city resident Don Quarles was chosen to fill the vacant Ward 3 seat until November 2024. The vacancy was created when Mayor pro-tem Tom Porter resigned his position earlier this month. In other business, the council elected fellow member Alfred Brock to serve as mayor pro tem, a vacancy also created with Porter's resignation.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed proposals at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, August 17, 2023 for the following:

FIRE STATION # 2 PARK

Proposals may be downloaded on the MITN Purchasing Group website at https://www.bidnetdirect.com/mitn/cantontownship or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: mike.sheppard@cantonmi.gov. All proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of proposal opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 7/27/2023

CN2496 - 072723 2.5 x 2.071

SYNOPSIS
REGULAR MEETING
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DATE: Thursday, July 20, 2023
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: 44405 Six Mile Road
CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Abbo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
PRESENT: Mark Abbo, Supervisor; Cynthia Jankowski, Jason Rhines, Treasurer; Scott Frush, Trustee; Clerk Mindy Herrmann, Trustee; Roger Lundberg, Trustee; Christopher Roosen, Trustee

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
1. **Agendas:**
   A. **Regular Agenda and the Consent Agenda items** – Approved
2. **Appointments, Presentations, Resolutions & Announcements:**
   A. **Legislative Updates** – Presented by Senator Bayer, Representative Koleszar & Representative Morgan
   B. **Public Safety – Police – Promotional Recognition** – Presented
   C. **Public Safety – Fire – Retirement Recognition** – Presented
   D. **Parks & Recreation Recognition** – Presented
   E. **Appointment – EDC/BRA – Aric Tosqui** – Approved
   F. **Reappointment – Building Authority – Bob Belair & Tom Hughes** – Approved
   G. **Landfill Working Committee Report** – Presented
3. **Public Hearing:** None
4. **Brief Public Comments:** None
5. **New Business:**
   A. **Public Services – Asset Disposal of Public Works Vehicles** – Approved
   B. **Public Services – 2023 Sidewalk Gap Construction** – Approved
   C. **Supervisor – Senior Alliance Community Match** – Approved
   D. **Parks & Recreation – Cricket Pitch Installation** – Approved
   E. **ITAC – Network Access Storage Replacement** – Approved
6. **Unfinished Business:** None
7. **Ordinances:** None
8. **Check Registry:**
   A. **In the amount of $ 3,075,608.14 for the period of June 3, 2023 to July 7, 2023.** – Approved
9. **Board Communication & Reports:**
   A. Mark Abbo, Cynthia Jankowski, Jason Rhines, Scott Frush, Mindy Herrmann, Roger Lundberg, Christopher Roosen, Mutchler
10. **Any other business for the Board of Trustees:** None
11. **ADJOURN:** Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

A draft of the meeting minutes will be available August 1, 2023.
Respectfully submitted:
Mark Abbo, Supervisor
Cynthia L. Jankowski, Clerk

NT0223 - 072723 2.5 x 5.214

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CANTON

Veteran police officer retires from department

Canton Township Police Ofc. Erik Kaledas has retired from the department.

Kaledas began his 25-year career in law enforcement in 1998, after serving in the 1776th Military Police Company of the Michigan Army National Guard. As a road patrol officer, Kaledas responded to calls for service, provided traffic enforcement, conducted criminal investigations and responded to emergency situations throughout the community, officials said.

In addition to his patrol duties, Kaledas participated in many special units including Explorer Advisor, Evidence Technician, Bicycle Unit, Range and Rifle Instructor, Field Training Officer, and the Search Warrant Team. Kaledas was also one of the longest standing members and team leader of the prestigious department Honor Guard Unit responsible for posting of the colors at various ceremonial events. While Kaledas was respected among his peers and supervisors for providing consistently solid police work as a patrol officer, he thrived as an investigator in the Detective Bureau where he spent 10 of his last 12 years of service, officials said. "Kaledas possessed a passion for thoroughly investigating crimes and preparing felony cases for prosecution. His tenacity, attention to detail, and innate ability to read people and situations contributed to his success as an effective investigator and lead detective within the division," according to an official statement from the department.

> *Erik has forged a path of excelling ...*

Kaledas joined the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Investigative Services in 2016. This augmented experience enhanced his skills in his current position within the police department, according to officials.

"Erik's knowledge and input as a senior officer has been valued by those who have had the pleasure to work with him. His passion for law enforcement excellence has made him a highly-regarded role model for the department's younger police force. On the personal side, coworkers will miss his ever-present smile and sense of humor," noted his fellow officers.

"Detective Kaledas embodies unwavering determination and has achieved remarkable feats throughout his tenure as a police officer and detective. Possessing an unyielding dedication to justice and a profound sense of responsibility, Erik has forged a path of excelling as an investigator while dutifully serving as a reservist in our nation's military. He has balanced the demands of serving our community and defending our country. His exceptional service demonstrates a rare combination of commitment and bravery, earning the admiration and respect of many. We thank Detective Kaledas for his service and say goodbye knowing his absence will be deeply felt," said Police Chief Chad Baugh.

Ofc. Eric Keledas

Internet survey by Canton Leisure Services is now online

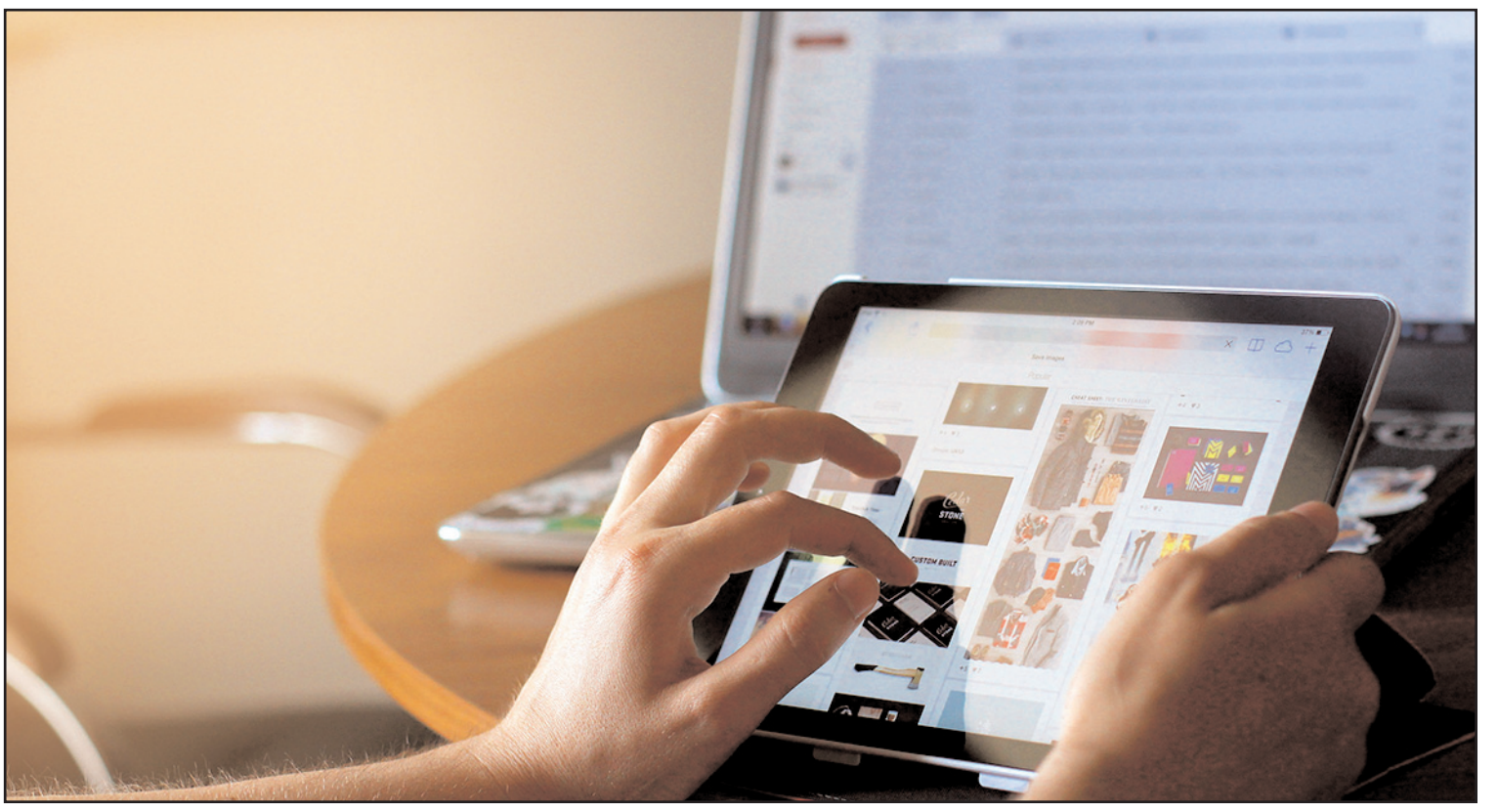
Speeds in Canton Township are being carefully checked, but no tickets will be issued and the response is strictly voluntary.

Officials said that as broadband Internet becomes a more essential and crucial service for those who live, learn and work in Canton, expansion availability may become necessary. In some areas of Wayne County, reliable high-speed Internet is not available, they said, and in an effort to bridge this digital divide, Canton and county representatives need a more accurate picture of the reliability of the internet and which properties do not have the essential internet services.

By completing a five-minute survey available at michiganmoonshot.org/tri-county-broadband, officials can compile accurate data regarding which properties have reliable and affordable Internet access, if access is available. Those taking the survey on a smart phone or wireless device at home or at a Canton business location, and access to wireless Internet is available, should be sure their device is using the Wi-Fi connection while taking this survey.

Information gathered will only be used to support broadband Internet expansion efforts and will aid in seeking grant funding to increase reliable broadband availability in the Wayne, Oakland and Macomb County areas, officials said.

Any information submitted will not be sold, but may be used in planning to verify and expand access opportunities with government and local partners. While each participant may not have all the necessary information to answer each question on the survey, officials ask respondents to answer as much as possible.



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing of the Sumpter Township Planning Commission is being held at the Sumpter Township Hall, on Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 6:00 pm regarding the pond ordinance amendment, Section 6.39.

A full text of the aforementioned adopted ordinance amendments may be examined at the Sumpter Township Offices, located at 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, by interested persons, during office hours, weekdays, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Esther Hurst
Township Clerk
Published: July 27, 2023

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INVITATION TO BID
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

MARTINSVILLE CEMETERY
43057 Willis Ct, Belleville, MI 48111
OLD FENCE REMOVAL, FENCING REPLACEMENT & GATES

The Township of Sumpter is accepting sealed bids for the
Martinsville Cemetery Fencing & Gates
in Sumpter Township, Wayne County, Michigan

Sumpter Township will only accept and entertain sealed bids submitted on or before;
Monday, August 28th, 2023
2:00 pm

Sealed bids will be received by:

The Clerk's Office
Sumpter Township
23480 Sumpter Rd.
Belleville, MI 48111

Bids shall be publicly opened and read on:
Monday, August 28th, 2023
3:00 pm
Sumpter Township Board Room
23480 Sumpter Rd.
Belleville, MI 48111

PLEASE NOTE: ONLY BIDS & PROPOSALS WRITTEN SPECIFICALLY TO THIS PUBLIC NOTICE WILL BE CONSIDERED. DEVIATIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS MAY BE PROPOSED SEPARATELY. HOWEVER, THE QUOTED PRICE MUST BE TO THE SPECIFICATIONS. Specifications for this opportunity may be obtained at the Sumpter Township Clerk's Office (address above) between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday or by visiting the Township WebSite at www.sumptertwp.org/clerk-office/.

Please call Sumpter Township, Clerk's Office at (734) 461-6201 if you require additional information.

Esther Hurst, Clerk

Published: The Eagle – July 27th, 2023
Posted:: (Township Bulletin Boards, Township WebSite) July 19th, 2023

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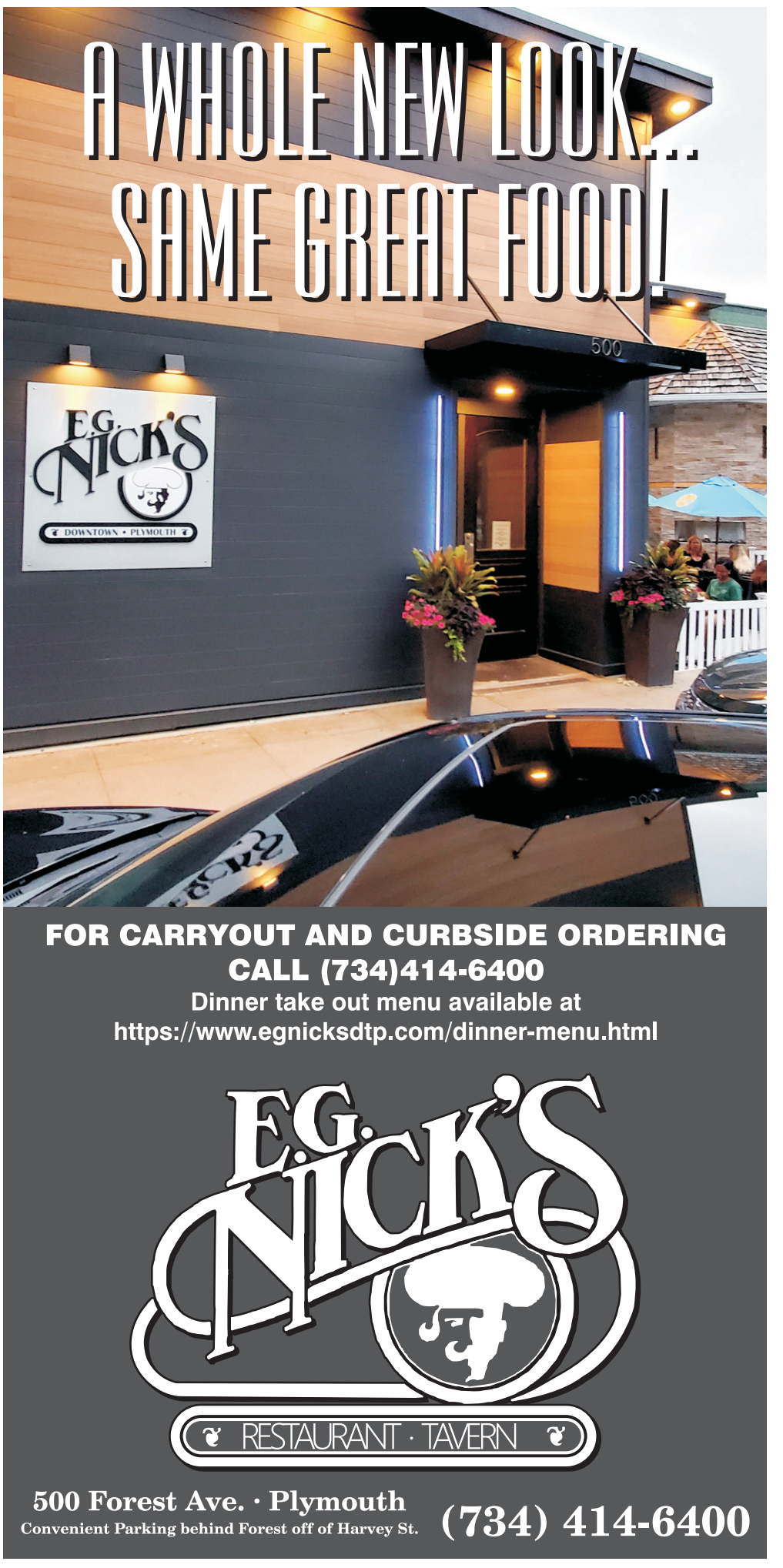

Northville

City council OKs design work for roundabout

Members of the Northville City Council approved preliminary design work for a roundabout at Seven Mile and South Center.

During a recent meeting, council members authorized a contract for professional services with OHM Advisors to provide preliminary design and engineering work for the traffic configuration. The $150,000 fee will be paid from the city Major Streets Fund, following approval of a budget amendment to fund the cost. Officials said a reimbursement for the cost would be requested from Hunter Pasteur Northville, developer of the Downs property, as part of the development agreement in progress.

The engineering design work is needed to secure grants, starting with a $1.5 million grant from SEMCOG, officials explained, as part of the Carbon Reduction Program, a new federal program to provide funding for projects and strategies that reduce carbon dioxide emissions from on-road vehicles.

Data from both new and existing traffic impact studies will be incorporated into the plans, and public informational meetings will be scheduled during the design process. Officials said Wayne County, owner of the roads, is also involved and supportive of a roundabout.

Officials said the roundabout was the first step toward improving an underperforming intersection and a gateway to the city.

Coffee with the Council prompts traffic questions

The second Coffee with Council event in the City of Northville July 15 drew about 10 residents to discuss a range of topics with council members Marilyn Price and John Carter along with City Manager George Lahanas. Special guest U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell attended later in the meeting, noting she was there to listen.

One of the chief concerns of residents was the effects of the closure of sections of Main and N. Center. Jeff Snyder, a resident of Beal Town, said wayfinding apps are directing people through his neighborhood and along River Street, which has been much busier, especially during morning and evening rush hour. Andrew Daily, a downtown resident and real estate developer, noted that the city is making some good changes in regard to adding new stop signs and pedestrian crossings but said government moves slowly with more to be done.

Northville resident Nancy Chirri said she wants the city to collect data from homeowners on whether the downtown streets should be open or closed to traffic since residents are largely impacted by it. Carter said he wants to see data on how the traffic patterns have changed since the downtown streets were closed.

Lahanas said the Downtown Development Authority is a great avenue for business owners to weigh in on how their businesses are doing with the street closures. There are plans to host a business forum in the near future to gain more insight, he told the audience.

Northville City Manager George Lahanas, left, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, Marilyn Price and John Carter gather for a group photo following the July 15 Coffee With Council event. Photo by Liz Cezat

Several citizens mentioned the need for the city to attract residents of all demographics. Some felt that council members were more focused on attracting younger families as residents than any other age group due to statements made at council meetings. Carter responded that he tends to hear more from residents with young families because they are a similar age and in a similar place in life but he proactively works to make sure that the council members are getting feedback from all residents.

On the record

Northville Township Records Clerk Melissa Sullivan has been selected to serve on the board of trustees for the Law Enforcement Records Management Agency (LERMA). With more than 25 years of membership, Northville Township has benefited from LERMA efforts to enhance knowledge and efficiency among law enforcement agencies, police officials said. The agency provides a platform for records clerks across the state to discuss common issues and find solutions together, they explained. Sullivan, a recognized expert in records management, will represent Northville Township with the agency.

Fire hydrants being repainted

Northville Township Department of Public Works employees have been repainting and inspecting township fire hydrants to ensure their optimal functionality.

The bright red paint is designed to facilitate swift identification by firefighters, according to fire officials who warned residents of the danger of decorating or repainting hydrants in their neighborhoods.

The distinctive appearance of the hydrants is necessary for efficient emergency response, they said.

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John D. Hamerink, M.S., D.D.S

Howard A. Hamerink, DDS

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Wednesday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
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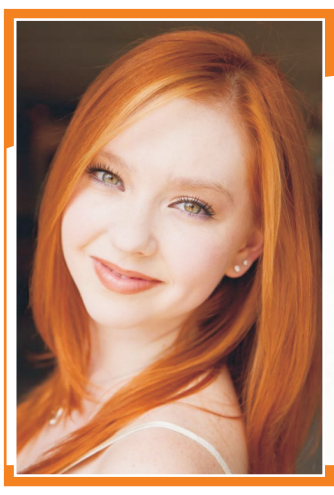

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• Moroccan Oil Conditioning
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105 N. Center Street · Northville · (248) 305-9850
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59. Auctions

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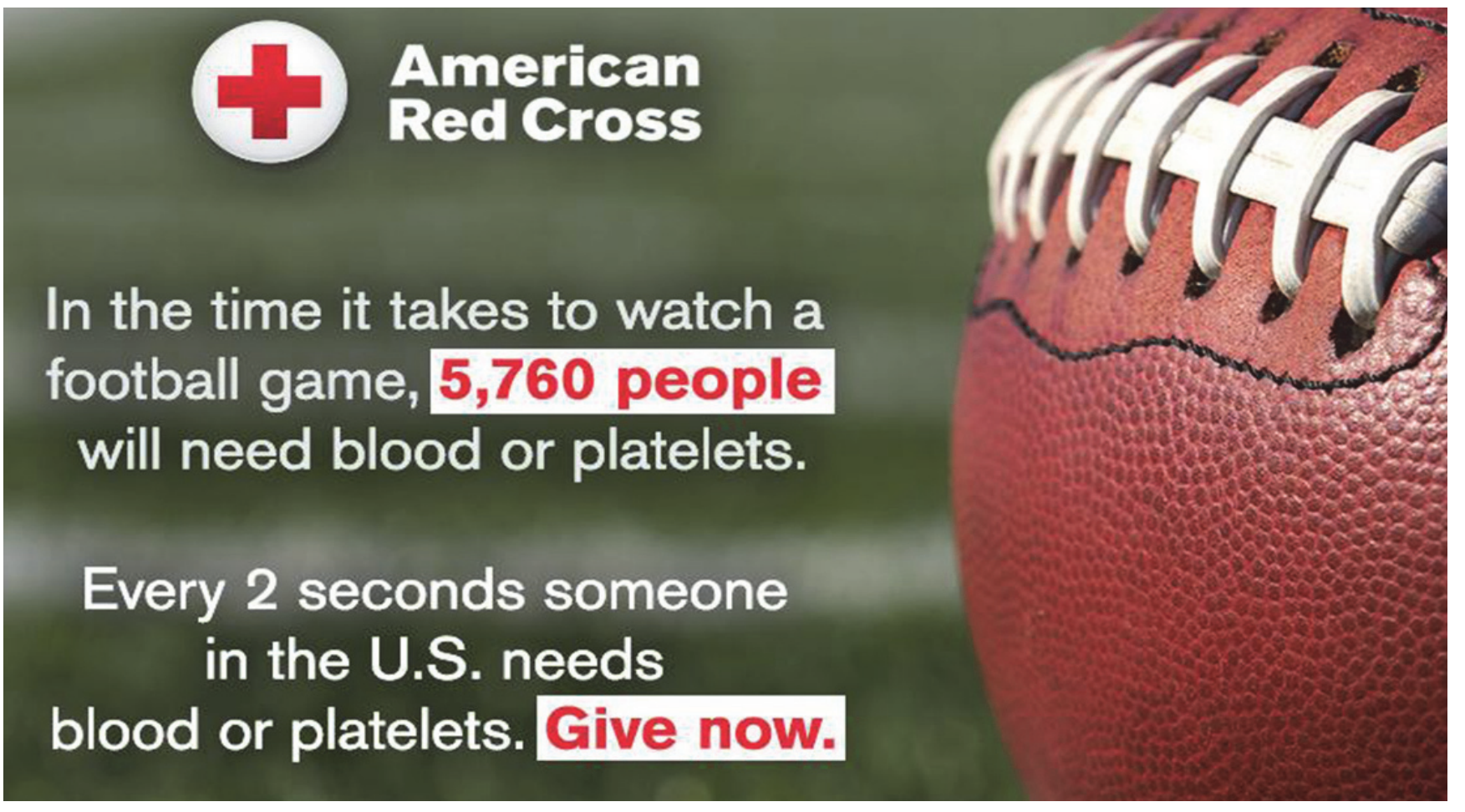
BROWNSTOWN, MI 48193
AUGUST 2, 2023
10:00 AM

2011 VOLKSWAGEN
3VWDX7AJ2BM319362
2008 DODGE
1B3LC56K48N273002
2006 JEEP
1J4GR48K46C249520
2008 FORD
1FAHP35N38W250965
2001 FORD
3FAHP0HGXBR260785
2013 DODGE
3C4PDCBB7DT563798
2000 DODGE
1B4HS28Z6YF275230
2007 DODGE
1D8HB58207F527450
2016 KIA
KNAFK4A62G5573006
2002 HONDA
JHLRD78832C082177
2018 HYUNDAI
KM8J33A48JU702703
2018 CHEVROLET
3GNAXSEV7JL403730


American Red Cross
In the time it takes to watch a football game, 5,760 people will need blood or platelets.
Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood or platelets. Give now.

PLYMOUTH - WESTLAND

Police academy students celebrate graduation

The accomplishments of 19 young residents were celebrated by the Westland Police Department last week as they marked their official graduation from the Westland Police Youth Academy. During the classes, the students experienced comprehensive and hands-on training from department officers and officials from the 18th District Court of Westland. The students gained insights into police K-9 demonstrations, taser training, traffic stops, SWAT procedures, court functions, building searches and evidence technician skills. Officials said the students' dedication to learning and serving the community was truly commendable. The police department issued a statement congratulating the graduates and expressing their pride in the group.

Plymouth-Canton offers transition help to families

Students returning to or starting classes in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools district this fall will have some extra help available.

The district Department of Student and Family Engagement was designed to help with school transitions and staff members work with parents, guardians and families to ensure Plymouth Canton students have what they need to learn and succeed. Department counselors can help provide students and families with access to health care services, vision screenings, dental appointments, mental health resources and other wraparound services if needed, including access to food, clothing, toiletries and school supplies, according to a prepared statement.

"Family involvement and engagement can make a world of positive difference in our students' education, in the classroom and beyond," Plymouth Canton Community Schools Superintendent Dr. Monica L. Merritt said. "Plymouth-Canton Community Schools is excited to provide a valuable resource to foster greater collaboration and partnership among our students, families and P-CCS team to help every child learn, prepare and thrive."

The department was formed as part of the district 2021-2027 Dynamic Plan to increase achievement for all students and close achievement gaps. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs said the department supports a culture of equity; facilitates family engagement programs that are diverse, integrated and sustained; and connects family involvement to student success.

The department also includes teacher engagement specialists, family liaisons, a mental health manager, nurse manager, nurse specialist and an executive assistant. The staff works directly with students to serve as accountability partners and to provide them with resources to support their success. Community partners such as The Salvation Army, Kiwanis, Rotary Club, The United Way, The Clothing Bank, University of Michigan Nursing Department, Western Wayne County Suicide Prevention Coalition and others are also key allies, officials said.

Vartanian-Gibbs encouraged families and students to follow the department newsletter to stay updated on department services, offerings and events. The department can be reached at (734) 416-2754 or by emailing sfe@pccsk12.com.

"Child outcomes improve considerably when schools and families collaborate on individual student's needs, goals, programs, and progress - and that's what the Student and Family Engagement Department focuses on," Vartanian-Gibbs said. "We encourage all families and students to get involved with our many wonderful resources and programs because that engagement is so critical to helping students achieve their maximum potential."

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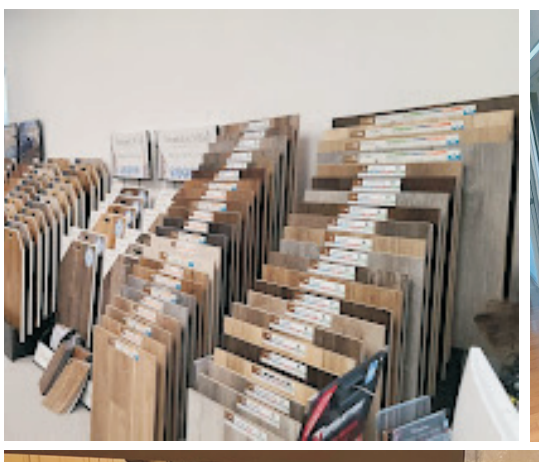

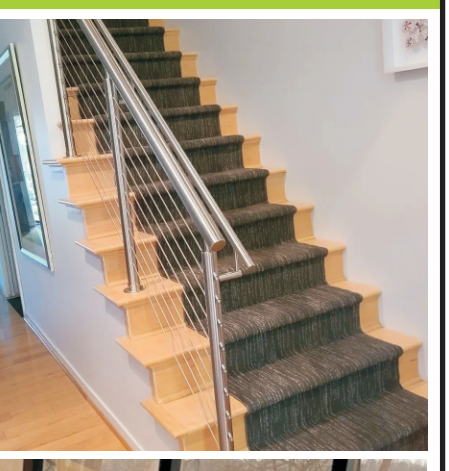

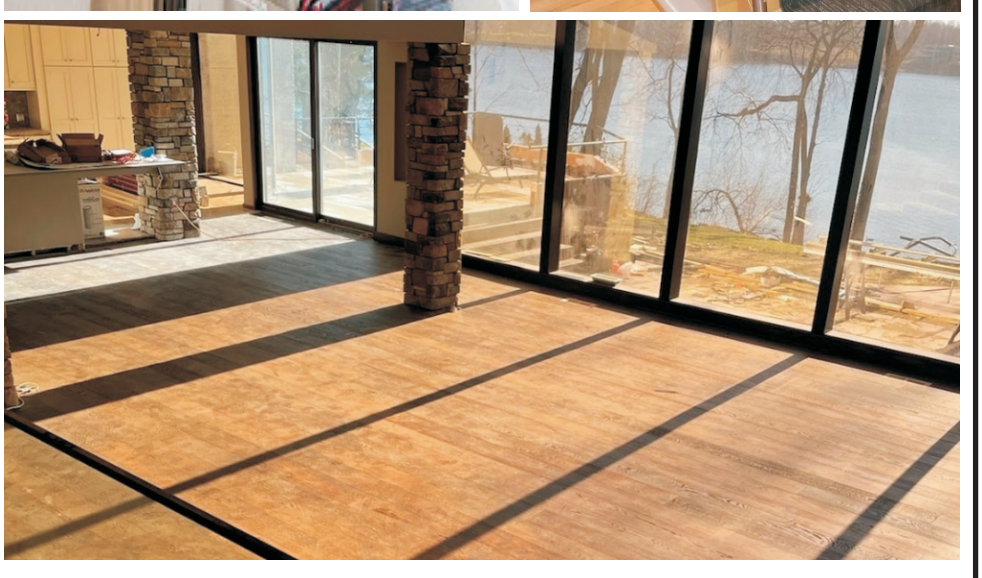

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Romulus - Sumpter

Board OKs $250,000 for remodeling of cemetery

The "quality of afterlife" will improve at Martinsville Cemetery in Sumpter Township.

Members of the board of trustees agreed at the July 11 meeting to use up to $250,000 of the expected American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to make improvements at the Willis Court facility.

Township Manager Anthony Burdick brought the proposal to the board members noting that the cost of the planned improvements and repairs were estimated at $150,00 to $180,000 and that he had used the $250,000 number in an effort to offset any unexpected increases in cost and the anticipated rise in pricing for the planned work. He added that state is being "aggressive" with timelines for the proposed use of the federal funding which is being administered by state officials.

Trustee Matt Oddy said he would be more comfortable in approving the use of funds if exact costs were included. Financial Manager Scott Holtz assured the board members that if the allocated funding was not spent, it could be transferred to another project. He noted that this was only a portion of the anticipated ARPA funding.

> *Oddy commented that he was concerned with the "quality of afterlife" at the cemetery.*

In response to questions, Burdick explained that the ARPA regulations require that the funding must be used "for the public good."

He added that the next project under consideration for use of the federal funding would be the township parks.

Oddy commented that he was concerned with the "quality of afterlife" at the cemetery for those buried at the site and their families. He said currently, with the traffic patterns and access to the cemetery, residents with homes nearby have installed chains across their driveways to ensure privacy and safety due to the number of drivers using the driveways to turn their vehicles around.

Burdick agreed that the situation needed attention and noted that when visitors find the cemetery gates locked, they use private driveways to turn around because of the configuration of the road into the cemetery, a situation the proposed improvement plan would hopefully correct.

In the excused absence of Trustee Don LaPorte, the trustees approved designating the funding for cemetery improvements by unanimous vote.

Legal lunch

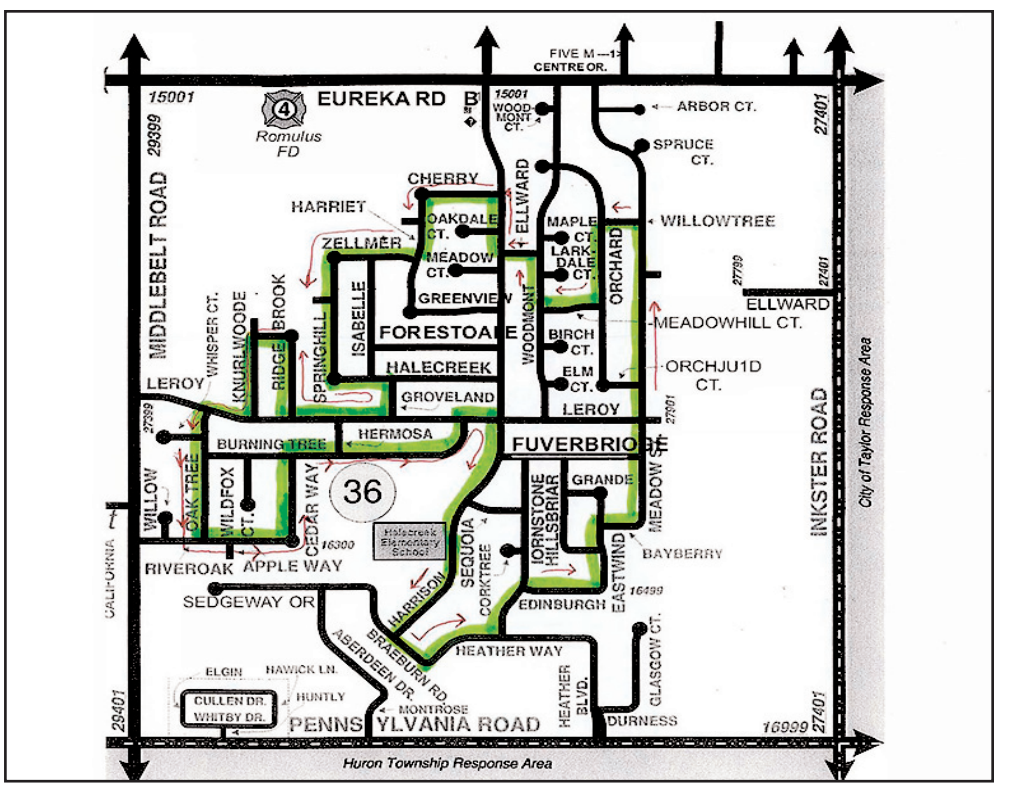
As part of the Romulus Public Library Summer Reading Kickoff Carnival on June 13, winners in a drawing of "passport" tickets were invited to several visits with city officials. Prize winner Haley won lunch with the police chief, and last week she and her dad, Dave, enjoyed McDonald's with Chief Robert Pfannes. They were also treated to a tour of the police department as part of the prize.

Community Bike Ride is Saturday

The Fifth Annual Community Bike Ride is set for Saturday throughout the City of Romulus.

The popular event is organized and hosted by the Police and Community Together (PACT) organization; the day will include food, entertainment and a 4-mile bike ride from 2 until 5 p.m. July 29. Riders of all ages are welcome but children should be accompanied by an adult rider, officials said.

The event will begin and end at Halecreek Elementary School located at 16200 Harrison St. Riders can still register for the event at https://bit.ly/3NQglq3.



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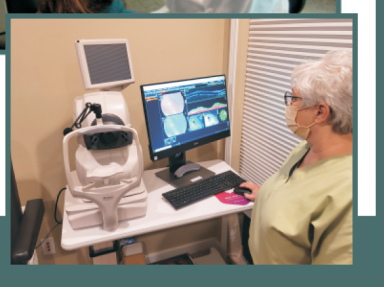

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